

Academy of Richmond County

AP Environmental Science Syllabus

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Course Description

AP Environmental Science is designed to provide students with the scientific principles, concepts, and methodologies required to understand the interrelationships of the natural world, to identify and analyze environmental problems both natural and human made, to evaluate the relative risks associated with these problems, and to examine alternative solutions for resolving and/or preventing them. The following themes provide a foundation for the structure of the AP Environmental Science course: (1) Science is a process, (2) Energy conversions underlie all ecological processes, (3) The Earth itself is one interconnected system, (4) Humans alter natural systems, (5) Environmental problems have a cultural and social context, and (6) Human survival depends on developing practices that will achieve sustainable systems.

Textbook

Environment: The science behind the stories (Pearson) – Withgott & Laposata

Class Materials

- *Required*
 - Laptop
 - Pencil/Pen
 - Paper
- *Recommended*
 - Highlighter
 - Folder or Binder
 - Scientific Calculator

**** Additional supplies may be needed, but adequate notice will be provided. ****

Course Topics

Units	Percentage of AP Exam Score
Unit 1: The Living World: Ecosystems	6% – 8%
Unit 2: The Living World: Biodiversity	6% – 8%
Unit 3: Populations	10% – 15%
Unit 4: Earth Systems and Resources	10% – 15%
Unit 5: Land and Water Use	10% – 15%
Unit 6: Energy Resources and Consumption	10% – 15%
Unit 7: Atmospheric Pollution	7% – 10%
Unit 8: Aquatic and Terrestrial Pollution	7% – 10%
Unit 9: Global Change	15% – 20%

**Students will also review notable environmental policies and legislation.*

APES Exam

In addition to the required academic material, we will spend a considerable amount of time discussing the exam; its format, what to expect, and how to prepare. College credit may be given for exam scores of three (3) and above. Exactly what scores will be accepted and how much credit will be awarded depends on the individual college.

The AP Environmental Science Exam is 2 hours and 40 minutes long and is divided between a multiple-choice section and a free-response section:

- **Section I: Multiple Choice**
80 Questions | 1 Hour 30 Minutes | 60% of Exam Score
- **Section II: Free Response**
3 Questions | 1 Hour 10 Minutes | 40% of Exam Score

Student Assessment

Students will be assessed throughout the duration of this course and are evaluated on their level of performance on various learning activities. Along with completing in-class learning activities, students will be expected to complete additional learning activities at home and on platforms such as AP Classroom and Canvas. Below is the grading scale:

- **Minor Assessments – 60%**
 - i.e. – learning activities, quizzes, labs
- **Major Assessments – 40%**
 - i.e. – summative assessments, projects, lab reports

Base Grade Reporting Scale and Rubrics

Assessment Score	Performance: Standard and Learning Target	Grading Average
5	Consistently Demonstrated	95%
4	Frequently Demonstrated	85%
3	Occasionally Demonstrated	75%
2	Rarely Demonstrated	60%
1	Not Submitted or Unattempted	50%

*** The lowest grade that will be reported is 50%.

Attendance

Students are expected to attend all classes and arrive on time. Failure to do so without proper documentation or excuse will result in students being marked tardy or absent. It is also expected that students arrive to class prepared to learn; willing to engage with the content, being an active participant in learning, and putting forth their best effort in all learning activities. Attendance will be recorded daily. It is the responsibility of the student to receive the learning material covered when tardy or absent. Reminders will be given. Material will be available in class and posted on Canvas to ensure it is available to all students.

Late, Make-Up, and Reassessment of Learning Activities

Late work may be submitted for grading within 5 school days of it being due. Assignments turned in 1-2 days late will result in no maximum point reduction. Assignments turned in 3-4 school days after the due can earn a maximum score of 4 based on the quality of work completed by the student. Assignments turned in 5 school days after the due date can earn a maximum score of 3 based on the quality of work completed by the student. Assignments turned in after the 5 days will result in a maximum score of 2 based on the quality of work completed by the student. Students will be given opportunities to make-up and reassess assignment that account for major grades. A reassessment form and plan must be completed by the student. This may involve a relearning process, completion of minor assessments, and revisiting the understanding of learning activities. The plan is then presented by the students and then agreed upon by the parent and teacher. A timeline to complete the plan will also be established to maintain student accountability. Failure to fulfill the requirements of the reassessment plan may result in no change in the original assigned grade for the assignment.

Electronic Devices:

Laptops are permitted in class for academic activities only. Devices such as cell phones, tablets, headphones, earbuds, AirPods, smart watches and other digital accessories are not to be used in the classroom/lab unless authorized by a RCSS district official. We are to abide by the Cell Phones and Electronic Communication Devices Policy as stated in the RCSS Code of Student Conduct and Discipline, Rule 16. Noncompliance or failure to adhere to this policy will result in disciplinary action from school administrators, teachers, and/or staff. If a student brings any of these items to school and they are damaged or lost, the school and teacher are not to be held responsible.

Lab Safety

Safety in the science classroom and labs an important part of the scientific process. Students will be asked to follow the lab safety guidelines set in the Flinn Scientific Student Safety Contract and other safety guidelines as directed by the teacher. Failure to comply with lab safety rules will result in removal from the lab. Further action may be taken by the teacher based on the behavior displayed by the student.

Classroom Conduct

Any behavior that interferes with the learning of others will not be tolerated. Students are to abide by the RCSS Code of Student Conduct and Discipline. Consequences for misconduct can include a verbal warning, intervention meeting, removal from the classroom, parent notification, parent/student/teacher conference, and/or discipline referral.

Academic Integrity

Integrity of scholarship is essential for an academic community. The expectation is that students will honor this principle. This means that all academic work is to be completed by the individual to whom it is assigned. Cheating, plagiarism, or unauthorized/improper use of AI-generated content will not be tolerated nor accepted for grading. The use of textbooks, cheat sheets, cell phones, pictures, or any other inappropriate resources for any assignment is also not permitted. Consequences for academic dishonesty can include a verbal warning, intervention meeting, parent notification, parent/student/instructor conference, and/or discipline referral.

Communication

Students are expected to stay current with information regarding this class. Announcements will primarily be presented during scheduled class time. Students can also anticipate announcements being posted on Canvas, sent to their student email, Canvas email, and through the Remind app. Parents may also be contacted by phone, text, or email to discuss matters pertaining to their student. Student and parents are welcome to reach out to the teacher using any of the methods mentioned above. It is also recommended that parents/guardians monitor student progress through Infinite Campus. If revisions are made to this syllabus or the course to ensure quality instruction, students, and parents will be notified.

LET'S HAVE A GREAT SCHOOL YEAR!!!